

**Pension Application for James Edmonston or Edmondson**

S.12850

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County aforesaid now sitting at the academy in the Village of Newburgh it being a Court of Record James Edmonson resident of the Town of Cornwell in the County aforesaid aged seventy two years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain he benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the month of August one thousand seven hundred and seventy six on Sunday but deponent does not now recollect the day of the month he entered the service of the United States for six months as a volunteer in a company of Militia commanded by Captain John Nicoll Thurston Wood was first Lieutenant John Wilkin Second Lieutenant and Asa Bycam Orderly Sergeant – Hugh Turner shortly afterwards succeeded Bycam who was promoted and deponent shortly after succeeded Turner & continued to serve as orderly sergeant in said company throughout the war. Immediately after the deponent entered said company as a volunteer as aforesaid said company was ordered to proceed to Fort Montgomery situated in the Highlands on the west side of the North River.

We went from New Windsor in the County aforesaid in a sloop said company belonged to McLaughrys Regiment General George Clinton was commander of all the forces both at Fort Montgomery & Fort Clinton which was situated on the opposite of [PosselosKill?] Duboises and Clinton's Regiments or a part of each was there under there command vessels [took?] & captured Moodys Company of Artillery capture John Belknaps company of Light Infantry which deponent thinks belonged to Clinton's Regiment was there & Thurston Wood Esquire whose affidavit is hereto annexed served at that time as a private in the said company of John Belknap.

We were stationed a few days at Fort Clinton and were ordered to Fort Independence near Peekskill opposite to the Dunderbarrack a Major Thompson commanded the fort Captain Onderdonk & Captain [Derusiders?] Companies of Militia were there at the same time. We remained at Fort Independence until after the battle of White Plains. There were no Continental troops there at this time according to Deponents recollection and belief tho Major Thompson a Continental officer commanded the fort. We left the fort in Company with Colonel John [cut off] a Lieutenant Colonel in Pauldings Brigade who had been at the battle of White Plains and landed on our return at Nichols Point and went to work on the Chevaux Deprise [chevaux-de-frise] then building there under the direction of Captain Machin, David Wright of Captain James Humphrey's Company & McLaughry's Regiment then worked on the Chevause Defreze [chevaux-de-frise] and had a command as Captain of a

Company of Artificers, Major Logan of Paulding's Regiment was at Nichols Point whilst deponent was there. Captain Machin was Chief Engineer, Eben Young as assistant Engineer was second in command Benjamin Norman laid out the work for the men deponent remained there in service until the first day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven. Deponent was ordered on duty against the Indians on the Indian frontier as herein after related.

In the fall of the year after Fort Montgomery was taken deponent was sent with a detachment of the regiment to which he belonged to Warsink on the Indian frontier and was placed under the command of Captain Felter whose company was stationed at that place we remained at Warsink one fortnight and were then relieved by another detachment. Deponent returned again to Nicholls Point—after deponents discharge at Nicholls Point on the first day of January 1777 deponent was pressed with a team to draw timber for the Chevause Deprise [chevaux-de-frise] then building was aforesaid.

Deponent drew timber five months for the United States and was then discharged from that service.

In the latter part of June 1778 deponent was again ordered to West Point with a detachment of said company to assist in building Fort Putnam now called Fort Independence deponent was there the day the battle of Monmoth [Monmouth] was fought which he thinks was sometime in the forepart of the month of July or last of June. The fort is situated on the brow of a precipice and we were obliged to carry the stone up in hand barrows at Major [Machin? Or Mac Nung?}] was the engineer a Captain White of the Eastern Militia was there [Mac Nung?] had beat a lad belonging to Whites company, White in return beat [Mac Nung?] with his pontoon [Mac Nung?] challenged, White accepted [Mac Nung?] massed? & White refused to fire tho urged by [Mac Nung?] who [?] his bosom—White said he had complete satisfaction already and so the matter carded.

Deponent remained three weeks in the service at this time and was then discharged.

In the winter of 1778 deponent was again pressed with two teams to draw wood to NewBurgh & forage for the army which time lay there I was employed in this service for five months—

Deponent was again pressed with a team in the year of Sullivan's Expedition to draw baggage for General Poor who served with said expedition—deponent drew it to Sussex in the State of New Jersey and deponent saith that in consequence of the County of Orange being almost surrounded by the enemy and subject to perpetual incursions from the Tories who secreted themselves in the surrounding mountains.

The Militia of this County from the beginning to the end of the war were constantly on guard. That they were divided into detachments which regularly succeeded each other in keeping guard on the frontier until relieved. That in the case of general alarms the whole militia turned out in Mass.

That they were very frequent in so much that deponent was almost constantly engaged either in watching the Tories at home, scouring the surrounding mountains in pursuit of them, standing guard on the Indian frontier or drawing timber and

baggage for the army—Thurston Wood Esquire whose affidavit is annexed & Daniel Bellknap know of Deponent's services as aforesaid and deponent also with that he has no written discharge it not being customary to give written discharges to the militia.

And in answer to the Interrogatories specially put by the Court deponent says that he was born in the Town of New Windsor in the County aforesaid in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty.

That he has no record of his age.

That he was living in the Town last aforesaid when called into service, has lived in the County of Orange ever since and now lives in the Town of Cornwall in said County.

Deponent entered the service as a volunteer, six months as aforesaid.

That he has already stated the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served and each Continental and Militia Regiments he can recollect and the general circumstances of their service.

That he never received a written discharge from the service but received an honorable verbal discharge, as was customary amongst the Militia. Deponent is well known to Thurston Wood Esquire and Joseph Norrell Esquire soldiers of the Revolution who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) James Edmonston

Affirmed to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Asa Dunning, Clerk